

Evening Sermon Outline – November 5, 2017
God's Righteousness: Praised! Psalm 119:137-144

I. *Righteousness is an attribute of God –*

TSADDE. Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are Your judgments. (Psalms 119:137 NKJ)

1. *Righteousness is part of the essence of Who and What God is – Righteous are You, O LORD*

The puritan Thomas Watson said “glory” was the “sparkling of the Deity” if that is true it seems to me, righteousness is the substance of the Deity! It is at least part of His substance, His essence!

“This is the first ground of comfort—a meditation of the righteousness of God’s nature; he alters not with times, he changes not with persons, he is, always and unto all, one and the same righteous and holy God. Righteousness is essential to him, it is himself; and he can no more defraud the godly of their promised comforts, nor let the wicked go unpunished in their sins, than he can deny himself to be God, which is impossible.”—*William Cowper.*

2. *When the Psalmist adds - and upright are Your judgments. (Psalms 119:137 NKJ) he is telling us, as righteousness is part of God's essence, it is also PART of EVERYTHING God does!*

A. *This is important to remember in relation to God's sovereign providence, God had allowed in the Psalmist life, his being – ... small and despised, ... (Psalms 119:141 NKJ) and his experiencing Trouble and anguish ... (Psalms 119:143 NKJ)*

B. *The psalmist knows God has allowed these things, and yet he is declaring for one and all to hear, God is righteous in allowing these things! What the Psalmist is doing is the opposite of complaining –*

Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? (Lamentations 3:39 NKJ)

II. *God's judgments, His testimonies, His commandments, His word, His precepts and His law are all reflections of and expressions of His righteousness -*

upright are Your judgments. (Psalms 119:137 NKJ)

“Your testimonies” - Psalm 119:138 & 144

“Commanded / Commandments” - Psalm 119:138 & 143

“Words / Word” - Psalm 119:139 & 140

“Precepts” - Psalm 119:141

“Law” – Psalm 119:143

All of these words are describing roughly the same thing, God's commandments, His TEN COMMANDMENTS, His Laws written throughout Scripture, even all Scripture, is an expression or reflection of God's righteousness. Here, the Psalmist uses certain adjectives both to praise and teach –

1. *Upright - יָשָׁר yashar {yaw-shaw'r}*

Meaning: 1) straight, upright, correct, right 1a) straight, level 1b) right, pleasing, correct 1c) straightforward, just, upright, fitting, proper 1d) uprightness, righteous, upright 1e) that which is upright

2. *Righteous - צְדָקָה tsedeq {tseh'-dek}*

Meaning: 1) justice, rightness, righteousness

This is the theme of this portion of this Psalm, as God is righteous, so also is everything both He says, His Words, Commandments, Precepts, and does, His Judgments – all connected to, or coming out from God Who is righteous

3. *Faithful – steadfast, true-blue, consistent*

4. *Very Pure - צָרָף tsaraph {tsaw-raf'} **Meaning:** 1) to smelt, refine, test*

God's Word has been tested in fire and not found wanting, it is more valuable than gold – More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; ... (Psalm 19:10 NKJ)

5. *Truth* – אֱמֶת 'emeth {eh'-meth} **Meaning:** n f 1) firmness, faithfulness, truth 1a) sureness, reliability 1b) stability, continuance 1c) faithfulness, reliability - *same root word as faithful*

6. *Everlasting* - עוֹלָם 'owlam {o-lawm'} or אֵלָם 'alam {o-lawm'}

Meaning: 1) long duration, antiquity, futurity, for ever, ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual, old, ancient, world 1a) ancient time, long time (of past) 1b) (of future) 1b1) for ever, always 1b2) continuous existence, perpetual 1b3) everlasting, indefinite or unending future, eternity

This is OPPOSITE of what the ungodly say, they would say "old" means out-of-date, currently irrelevant, but everlasting means ALWAYS RELEVANT, always in style, always applicable, even and especially TODAY!

III. *Righteousness is not an attribute of unregenerate men (or women) –*

... my enemies have forgotten Your words. (Psalms 119:139 NKJ)

1. *By nature (our sin nature, the flesh, our carnal nature) we are enemies of God and His law –*

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (Romans 8:7 NKJ)

A. *Understand, when Paul speaks of the carnal mind, he is not speaking only of some sex fiend or murderer, rather he is speaking to what is natural to ALL of US apart from the renewing of our minds which would happen through God's Word and Spirit –*

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2 NKJ)

B. *Though by creation we have a conscious, and that is good, sin has impacted and influenced even that –*

Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes." (Ecclesiastes 7:29 NKJ)

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matthew 15:19 NKJ)

2. *These who by nature our enemies of God will forget God's law and despise God's people - my enemies have forgotten Your words. (Psalms 119:139 NKJ)*

I am small and despised, ... (Psalm 119:141 NKJ) *"Goodie two-shoes" "Nice guys Finish Last"*

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12 NKJ)

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (John 15:19 NKJ)

IV. *In a harsh, ungodly world God's people hold to His Word –*

I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts. (Psalm 119:141 NKJ)

Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights. (Psalm 119:143 NKJ)

They do this, hold to God's Word:

1. **Zealously - My zeal has consumed me, because my enemies have forgotten Your words. (Ps. 119:139 NKJ)**

When the world forgets, we REMEMBER! I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts. (Psalm 119:141 NKJ)

The world means nothing God's Word is all!

2. **Lovingly - Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it. (Psalm 119:140 NKJ)**

3. **With delight - Yet Your commandments are my delights. (Psalm 119:143 NKJ)** *Even in the midst of trouble and anguish!*

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